

RIDGWAY BOROUGH BUDGET MEETING
Second Ward Fire Hall
321 W Main Street, Ridgway, PA 15853
October 25, 2023

The budget development meeting of the Ridgway Borough Council was called to order by Frank Quattrone at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday October 25 at the Second Ward Fire Hall.

PRESENT: Council members Frank Quattrone, Steve Lawrie, Steve Caggese, Abbi Peters, and Brent Kemmer. Also present Borough Manager Michael Handley, Mayor Ray Imhof, and Recording Secretary Jake Mercer.

ABSENT: Council members Ralph Dussia and Ron Burkett.

Borough Manager Mike Handley opened up the meeting by saying that they did really good work this year keeping on budget. Handley also said that there is a focus on understanding spending and having the department heads understand where the money is coming from. Handley shared the notable meeting dates, including November 1 for general discussion, November 8 for a water sewer presentation, and the next borough council meeting on November 15.

Motor License

Handley reported that the PennDOT allocation is higher than it was last year. Handley stated that the past three years they have been paying off a paving project that they did a few years back. Handley said his goal this year is to pave three to four streets, including ones on Hill Street. Handley said there are major runoff issues on Hill Street. He said planning on the project is proceeding and that they will have roughly \$127,000 for each of the next three years.

Equipment Depreciation

Handley stated that these funds will be held after the next expenditure and that their balance will be zero. Handley said that they are still waiting for the water truck to come in. Handley stated that the remaining balance in the equipment depreciation fund is going to be used to pay off that truck. He said that they will have to accumulate roughly \$17,000 through taxes.

Councilman Lawrie asked Handley if these vehicles are funded at a higher rate. He said that they do, but that is not the current practice, and they are working towards that. Handley suggested that they should start taking a percentage of the dumpster rentals and other refuse income and transfer those funds to subsidized reserves to purchase future capital. Councilman Lawrie said they should be smart about money when it comes to replacing a piece of equipment. Handley stated that there are plans in place in their strategic management plan that states that they need to be more competitive in the truck waste industry. After much discussion about certain types of equipment and the allocation of certain funds, discussion moved on regarding the timber fund.

Timber

Handley reported that they are down to about \$13,000 in the timber fund. Handley said that they are going to plan on allocating \$5,000 for tree maintenance or to plant a tree. He stated that \$5,300 was spent from

the timber fund.

Councilwoman Peters stated that if they move forward with the solar array if that would become a part of the timber fund. Handley stated that this would be a fluid account.

Councilman Kemmer asked Handley if there are trees in Ridgway that could be cut down and used for wood chips. Councilman Lawrie said wood chips are not in high demand at this time.

Recreation

Handley stated that the recreation fund budget is a bit different from last year as \$650,000 was budgeted. For this year \$580,000 is budgeted. Handley said he had cut down costs on the potential splash pad that will be installed at the Lyle G. Hall community pool. He said \$200,000 is solely funded from grant writings and community contributions. He said the borough has about \$28,000 in their splash pad fund.

Handley stated that they have about \$130,000 in American Rescue Plan fund that they will spend on parks revitalization and will have about \$40,000 left over once this is allocated in order to be compliant with the federal government. In regard to project efforts regarding parks revitalization, Handley stated that the borough is running the project, and the Ridgway Parks Revitalization Committee is giving them ideas on what they would like to see in these local parks and volunteering their time.

Refuse

Handley stated that they are trying to add more state pension allocation benefits through all departments. Handley said he plans on purchasing dumpsters this year and said that he is not seeing a huge decrease in costs. The plan is to allocate \$23,000 towards this purchase. Handley said health insurance for the municipality went up about 15% this year but this was expected and not as bad as other municipalities. Handley said nothing has changed in regard to the cost of a new leaf collection truck as well as truck waste and that the budget is balanced.

Ridgway Mills

Handley said that there were some costs associated with the Ridgway Mills Campground because of the borough having a concessionaire for the campground. There was income that offset the expenses. Handley said wages will stay the same and said there is an increase with electric because of allowing events to go on at the property. For the master site plan for the Ridgway Mills property, Handley imagines this will cost \$35,000 and potentially another \$5,000.

Councilwoman Peters asked if the budget reflects what they made this past year. Handley said that this budget reflects that. Handley said that they lost \$1,400 but funded around \$10,000 to balance the budget.

Councilwoman Peters suggested that going forward the concessionaire fee should be separate from being classified as a wage to delineate between what is true staff time and what is on the concessionaire side of things. Handley stated that the borough extends itself to make things work at the property, like the Ridgway Chainsaw Carvers Rendezvous.

After no further discussion, the council adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m. The next budget meeting will be held on Wednesday November 1, at 4:30 p.m.